

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY China REPORT [] 25X1

SUBJECT Sailing Directions/Security Procedures/
Pier Facilities/Vessels Observed/
Miscellaneous Information: DATE DISTR. 6 Apr 59

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3. Pier Facilities

[redacted] the following facilities and activities within the immediate vicinity and at the coal pier. There were one or two old cranes which did not appear to be in use, and [redacted] hundreds and hundreds of carts in use, each handled by two or three men. Only one or two motor trucks and a number of old Soviet-type fork-lift trucks were in use, [redacted]

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[redacted] Two mobile cranes with an estimated lifting capacity of four tons loaded railroad cars. These cars were of large size and were part of long trains of about 15 cars each which seemed to be moving in and out of the port area. Water and stores appeared to be available. [redacted] Advertisements around the pier stated that paint, rope, and such items could be obtained, [redacted]

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[redacted] noted at least five fuel tanks behind Wharves No. 2 and 3, and on the other side of the bay were a number of such tanks. A coal-loading operation was being conducted at the coal pier. The deck of the pier was five feet above the water line, and a conveyor belt about 12 feet above the deck carried the coal horizontally to the ship being loaded. Workers carried the coal onto the belt by means of double baskets slung on a pole over the workers' shoulders. The low level of the conveyor belt did not permit the ship to be loaded in this way unless it was low in the water; and, therefore, some of the coal had to be loaded by hand.

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4. Merchant Vessels

Approximately seven ships were at anchor in Tsingtao harbor and six were moored in the port.

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[redacted] Other vessels brought in steel, fertilizer in 100 kg. sacks, and one ship carried paving stones. [redacted] very little cargo was exported except for ground nuts and soy beans. Piles of rubber tires were stacked in the port area. Although large quantities of steel continue to be imported into Tsingtao, [redacted] it is no longer stored in the harbor area but is being removed immediately by railroad.

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5. Naval Vessels

Naval vessels were concentrated around Wharf No. 3 [redacted]

[redacted] / Three destroyers which [redacted] were of the Gordy class were berthed there.

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[redacted] resembled the old wartime DD's and were equipped with stern depth charge, not with rockets or modern anti-submarine weapons. The DD's were equipped with four single mounts, two forward and two aft [redacted] which contained a gun of approximately 4.7 caliber. These vessels had three fairly new radars, one of which appeared to be a gun control radar and were flying Chinese flags and manned by Chinese personnel. [redacted]

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these DD's departed and did not return. There were three or four LST types [redacted]

[redacted] There were also about 12 gunboats. All of these vessels other than destroyers were equipped with radar but had light armament. The mincraft were active every day during the daylight, but they returned every evening. One DD and two LST's were steaming toward Shanghai opposite the Yangtze, [redacted]

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6. Other Military Matters and Construction

[redacted] no guns, gun emplacements, radars, or troop movements. Most of the radars on the military vessels were off at all times, [redacted] 25X1

[redacted] There were few military personnel, and no army personnel to be seen around the town. 25X1

One day [redacted] 150 sailors from one of the ships marching. There is a small seaplane base [redacted] at which [redacted] six seaplanes and which had only one ramp leading from the water on to the land. The seaplanes were on maneuvers every day, and a few jets flew over every day but none appeared to land nearby. Pier No. 6 was bare except that at one time a vessel unloaded what appeared to be sand on it. There were no unusually heavily guarded areas in the port. There were three small ship yards which seemed able to handle only small craft, a gunboat being under construction in one of them [redacted] no other new construction except some filling in of land and a pile driver [redacted] 25X1

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7. No prosperity was evident, and the buildings appeared to be deteriorating, but [redacted] no filth and there were no beggars around. The common people looked very poor, while the men in uniform seemed very fit, well fed and well clothed. Living standards were low but better than in the pre-war days. [redacted] the common folk were fed in communal dining halls. The men in uniform seemed happy, but the common people appeared resentful and just accepting the fact that they were unable to change the present system. Most of the people were very quiet and there was little laughter. The dock workers showed resentment in their faces when they were required to show their passes in order to board a merchant vessel. In the middle of a rainstorm a group of women had to sweep water off a pier due to lack of a drainage system, and [redacted] the regime is inventing work in order to keep people busy. At the Seamen's Club, which was a cold and totally unheated place, tinned food, all types of liquor, and souvenirs could be bought. Prices were reasonable, but [redacted] the store was subsidized [redacted] The only propaganda [redacted] was in pictures on the walls of the Club, [redacted] 25X1

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All posters were written in Chinese, and there were no pictures of important people. Formerly, the Chinese Communists would play propaganda records on the merchant vessels extolling the virtues of Marxism, but [redacted] not [redacted] any of this type of thing at Tsingtao. Moreover, propaganda directed to dock workers has stopped and the loudspeakers now play only Chinese music. [redacted] 25X1

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